

BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

* WALTER CRANE *



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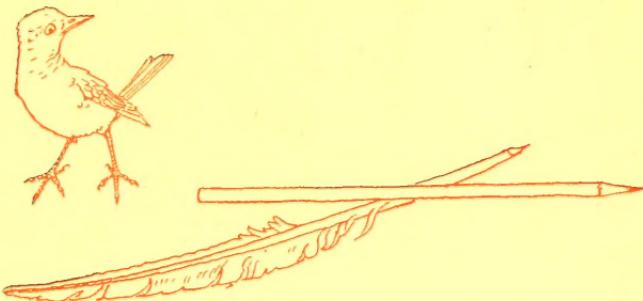
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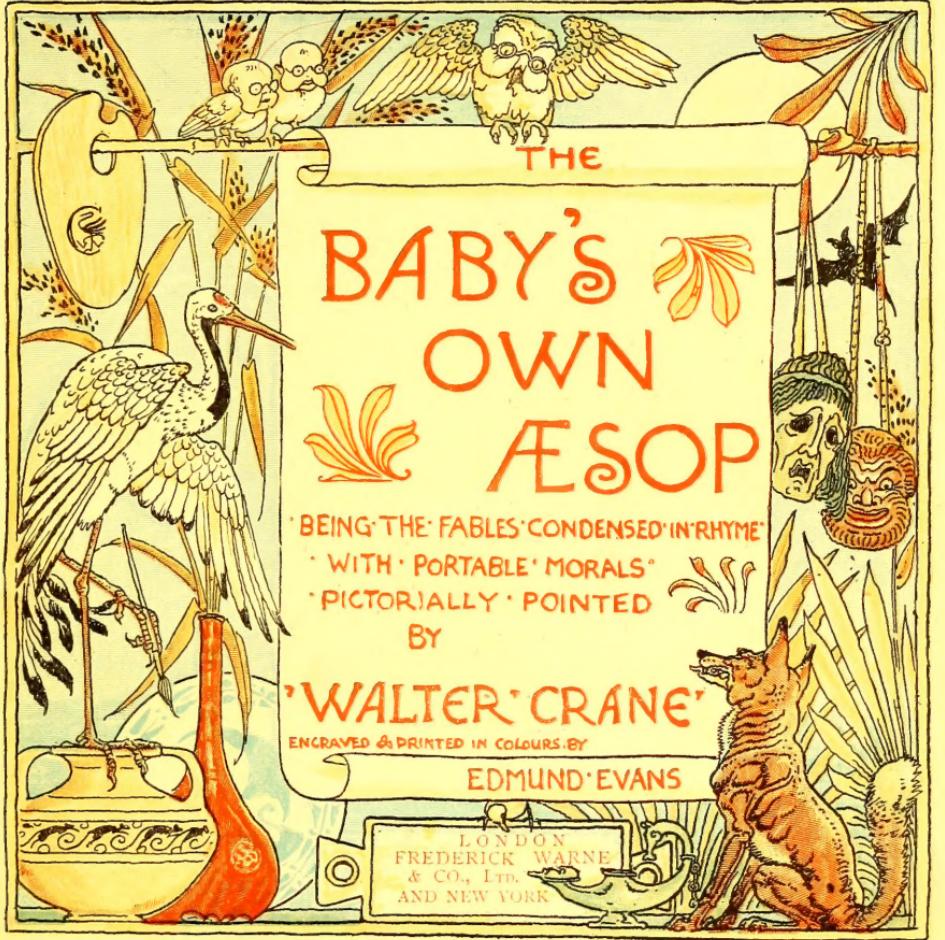
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THE BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

• BEING THE FABLES CONDENSED IN RHYME
• WITH PORTABLE MORALS
• PICTORIALLY POINTED

BY

'WALTER CRANE'

ENGRAVED & PRINTED IN COLOURS BY

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* PREFACE *

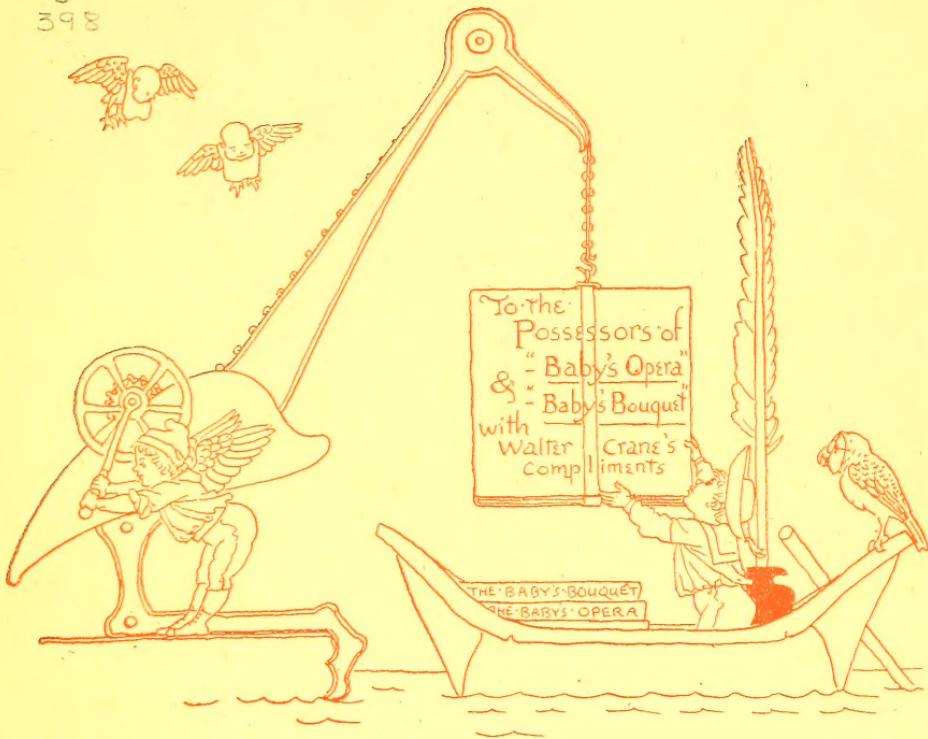
OR this rhymed version
of the Fables I have
to thank my early

friend and master W.J. LINTON,
who kindly placed the M.S. at my
disposal. I have added a
touch here and there, but the
credit of this part of the book
still belongs to him.

Walter Crane



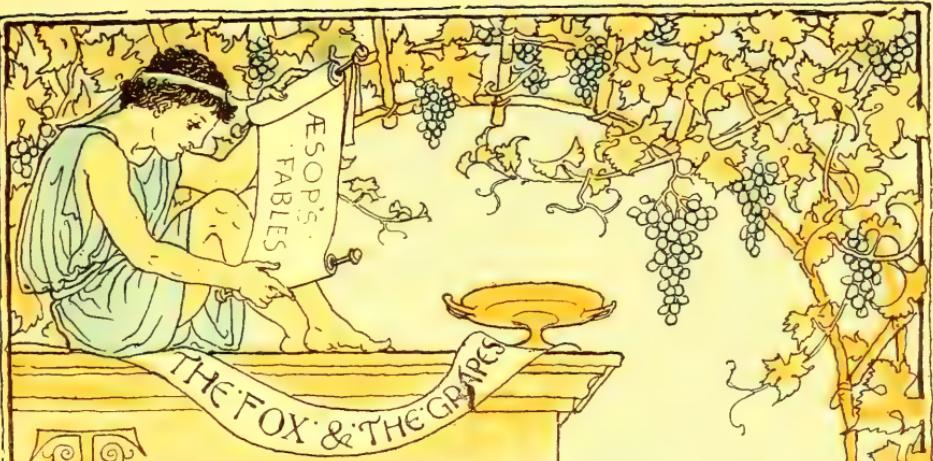
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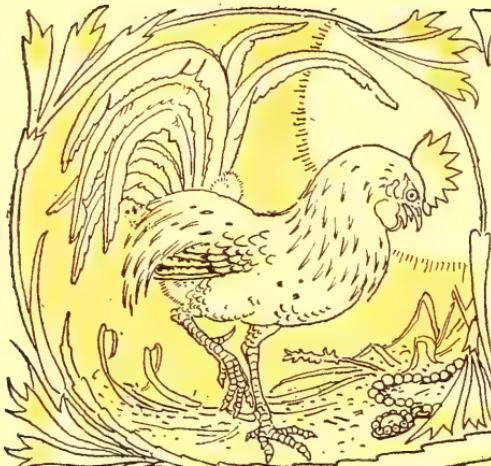


THIS Fox has a longing
for grapes,
He jumps, but the bunch still
escapes.
So he goes away sour;
And 'tis said, to this hour
Declares that he's no taste
for grapes.



"THE GRAPES OF DISAPPOINTMENT ARE ALWAYS SOUR."



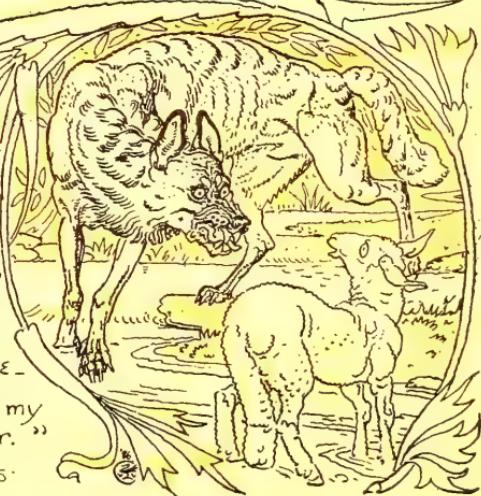


THE COCK & THE PEARL

A ROOSTER, while scratching
for grain,
Found a Pearl. He just paused to
explain
That a jewel's no good
To a fowl wanting food,
And then kicked it aside with
d disdain.
"IF HE ASK BREAD WILL YE GIVE HIM A STONE?"

THE WOLF AND THE LAMB

A WOLF, wanting lamb for his
dinner,
Growled out "Lamb you wronged me,
you sinner."
Bleated Lamb "Nay, not true!"
Answered Wolf "Then 'twas EWE -
Ewe or lamb, you will serve for my
dinner."



FRAUD AND VIOLENCE HAVE NO SCRUPLES



THE WIND & THE SUN

THE WIND and the Sun had a bet,
The wayfarers' cloak which should get:
Blew the Wind - the cloak clung:
Shone the Sun - the cloak flung
Showed the Sun had the best of it yet.

TRUE STRENGTH IS NOT BLUSTER.

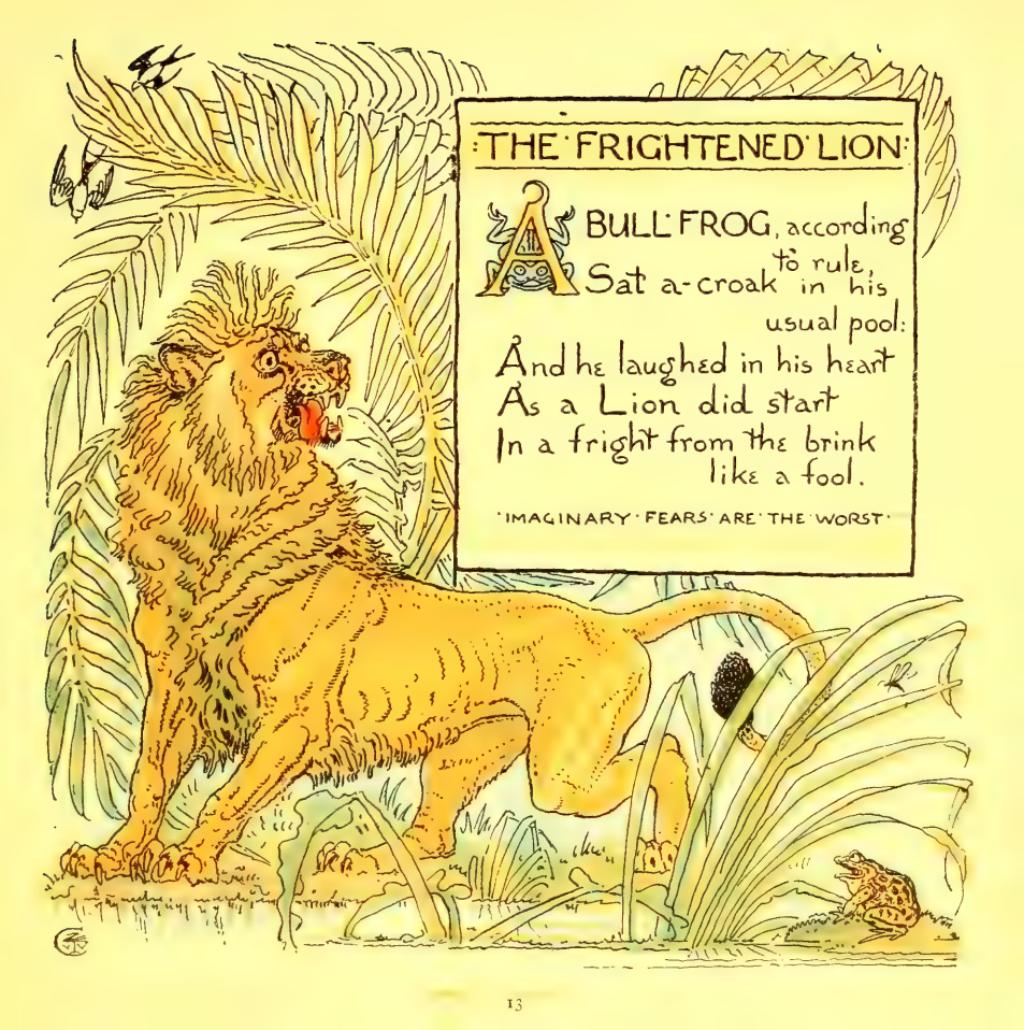
KING LOG & KING STORK

THE FROGS prayed to Jove for a king:
Not a log, but a livelier thing."

Jove sent them a Stork,
Who did royal work,
For he gobbleth them up, did their king.

DON'T HAVE KINGS





THE FRIGHTENED LION

A BULL FROG, according
to rule,
Sat a-croak in his
usual pool:

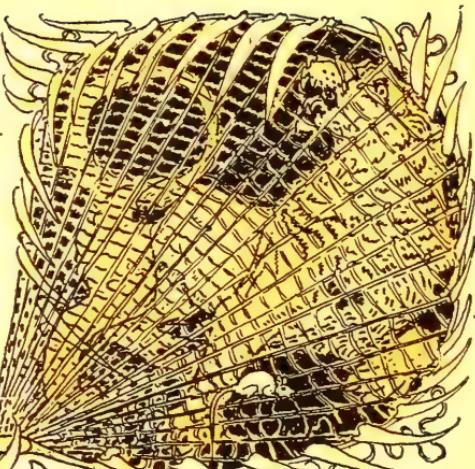
And he laughed in his heart
As a Lion did start
In a fright from the brink
like a fool.

"IMAGINARY FEARS ARE THE WORST."

THE MOUSE & THE LION:

A POOR thing the Mouse
was, and yet,
When the Lion got
caught in a net,
All his strength was no use
'Twas the poor little Mouse
Who nibbled him out of the
net.

'SMALL' CAUSES MAY PRODUCE GREAT RESULTS



THE MARRIED MOUSE:

S O the Mouse had Miss
Lion for bride;
Very great was his joy and
his pride:
But it chanced that she put
On her husband her foot,
And the weight was too much,
so he died.



'ONE' MAY BE 'TOO' AMBITIOUS'



HERCULES & THE WAGGONER

WHEN the God saw the Waggoner kneel,
Crying, "Hercules! Lift me my wheel,
From the mud, where'tis stuck!
He laughed—"No such luck;
Set your shoulder yourself
To the wheel."

THE GODS HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

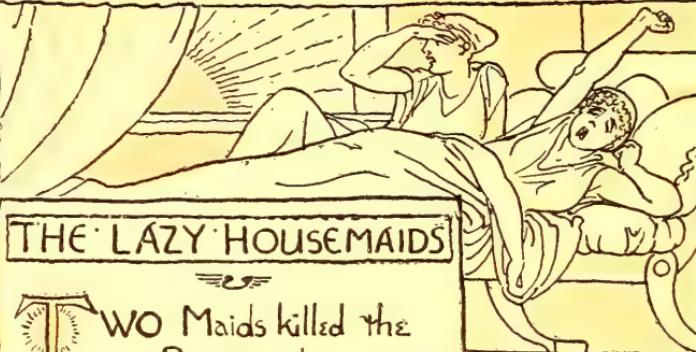


THE LAZY HOUSEMAIDS

TWO Maids killed the
Rooster whose warning
Awoke them too soon every
morning:

But small were their gains,
For their Mistress took pains
To rouse them herself without
warning.

■ ■ ■ LAZINESS IS ITS OWN PUNISHMENT ■ ■ ■





THE SNAKE & THE FILE

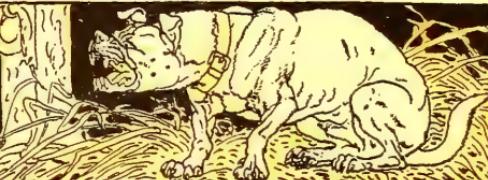
SNAKE, in a fix, tried
a File
For a dinner. "Tis not worth
Said the steel, " your while,"
I'm accustomed to take;
To give's not the way of
a File."
WE MAY MEET OUR MATCH."

THE FOX & THE CROW

SAID sly Fox to the Crow
with the cheese;
"Let me hear your sweet voice,
now, do please!"
And this Crow, being weak,
Cawed the bit from her beak.
"Music charms," said the Fox,
"and here's cheese!"

: BEWARE OF FLATTERERS:





THE DOG IN THE MANGER

A COW sought a mouthful of hay;
But a Dog in the manger there lay,
And he snapped out "how now!"
When most mildly, the Cow
Adventured a morsel to pray.

DON'T BE SELFISH

THE FROG & THE BULL

S AID the Frog, quite puffed up to the eyes,
"Was this Bull about me
as to size?"
"Rather bigger, frog-brother."
"Puff, puff," said the other,
"A Frog is a Bull if he
tries!"

BRAG IS NOT ALWAYS BELIEF

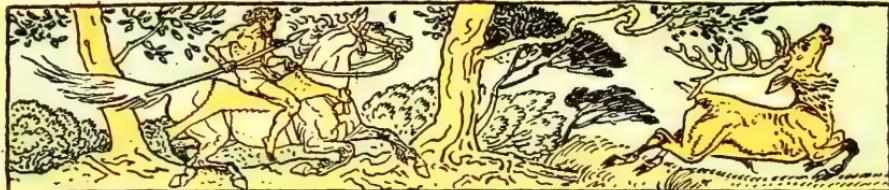


THE FOX & THE CRANE

You have heard how Sir Fox treated Crane:
With soup in a plate. When again
They dined, a long bottle
Just suited Crane's throttle;
And Sir Fox licked the outside
in vain.

THERE ARE GAMES THAT TWO CAN PLAY AT





HORSE AND MAN:

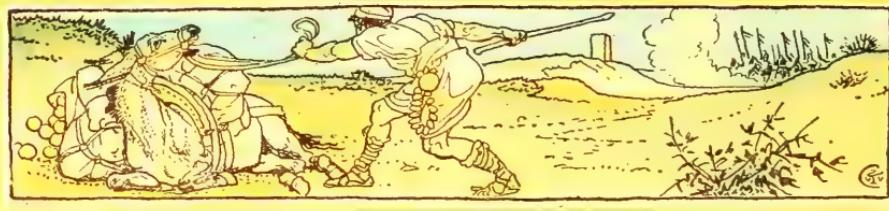
WHEN the Horse first
Took Man on his back,
To help him the Stag to attack;
How little his dread,
As the enemy fled,
Man would make him his
slave & his hack.

• ADVANTAGES MAY BE DEARLY BOUGHT:

THE ASS & THE ENEMY:

"GET up! let us flee from
the Foe,"
Said the Man: but the Ass
said "Why so?"
"Will they double my load,
Or my blows? Then, by goad,
And by stirrup, I've no cause
to go."

• YOUR REASONS ARE
NOT MINE:



THE FOX & THE MOSQUITOES

BEING plagued with Mosquitoes
Said old Fox, "pray don't send
them away,
For a hungrier swarm
Would work me more harm;
I had rather the full ones
 should stay."

THERE WERE POLITICIANS IN AESOP'S TIME.



THE FOX & THE LION:

THE first time the Fox
had a sight
Of the Lion, he most died
of fright;
When he next met his eye,
Fox felt just a bit shy;
But the next quite at ease,
 & polite.

FAMILIARITY DESTROYS FEAR.



THE MISER & HIS GOLD

HE buried his Gold in a hole.
One saw, and the treasure
he stole.
Said another, "What matter?
Don't raise such a clatter,
You can still go & sit by
The hole."

USE ALONE GIVES VALUE.

THE GOLDEN EGGS:

AGOLDEN egg, one every day,
That simpleton's Goose used to lay;
So he killed the poor thing,
Swifter fortune to bring,
And dined off his fortune that day.

:GREED OVERREACHES ITSELF ☽





THROUGH the town
this good Man & his Son
Strive to ride as to please everyone:
Self, Son, or both tried,
Then the Ass had a ride;
While the world, at their efforts,
poked fun.

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO PLEASE ALL--DON'T TRY.

THE OAK & THE REEDS:

GIANT Oak, in his strength & his scorn
Of the winds, by the roots
was uprooted:
But slim Reeds at his side,
The fierce gale did outside,
Since, by bending the burden
was borne.

: BEND, NOT BREAK:

THE FIR & THE BRAMBLE:

THE Fir-tree looked down
on the Bramble.
"Poor thing, only able to scramble
About on the ground."
Just then an axe's sound
Made the Fir wish himself
but a Bramble.

: PRIDE OF PLACE HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES



THE TREES & THE WOODMAN

THE TREES ask of Man
what he lacks;

"One bit, just to handle my son,

All he asks - well and good;

But he cuts down the tree,
So well does he handle his axe.

"GIVE ME AN INCH & I'LL TAKE AN
ELL!"





THE HART & THE VINE

Hart by the hunters pur-
sued,
Safely hid in a Vine, till
he chewed
The sweet tender green,
And, through shaking leaves
seen,
He was stain by his ingratitude.

SPARE YOUR BENEFATORS.

THE MAN & THE SNAKE

In pity he brought the poor Snake
To be warmed at his fire.
A mistake!
For the ungrateful thing
Wife & children would sting.
I have known some as bad as
the Snake.

BEWARE HOW YOU'

ENTERTAIN TRAITORS







"THE ASS IN THE LION'S SKIN

"WHAT pranks I
shall play!" thought
the Ass,
In this skin for a Lion to pass;

But he left one ear out,
And a hiding, no doubt,
"Lion" had - on the skin of
an Ass!

"IMPOSTORS"
GENERALLY "FORGET"
"SOMETHING"



:THE LION & THE STATUE:



Na Statue - King Lion
dethroned,
Showing conqueror Man,-
Lion frowned.
“ If a Lion, you know,
Had been sculptor, he'd show
Lion rampant, and Man on the
ground.”

THE STORY DEPENDS ON THE TELLER.



THE BOASTER

In the house, in the market, the streets,
Everywhere he was boasting his feats;

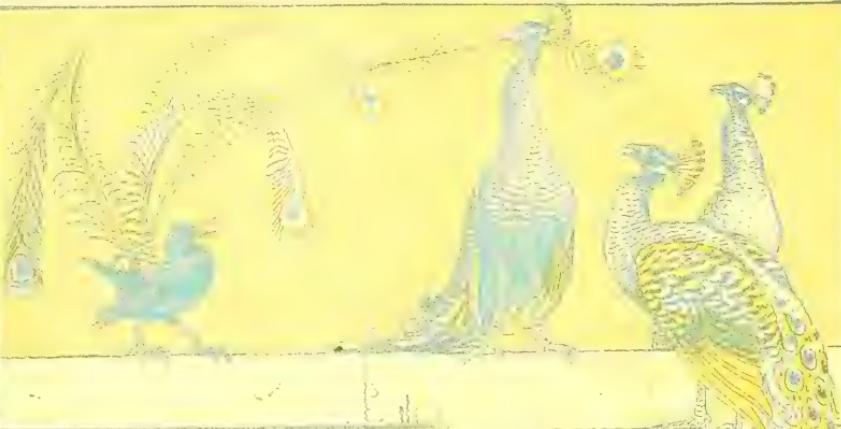
Till one said, with a sneer,

"Let us see it done here!

What's so oft done with ease, one
repeats?"

DEEDS

NOT WORDS

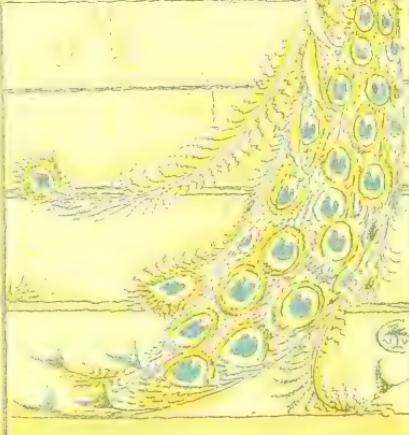


"THE VAULT JACKDAW:

FINE feathers I thought
"make fine fowls;"
I'll be invited of both & of owls.

But the peacock's proud eyes
Saw through his disguise,
And Jack fled the assembly
of fowls.

"BORROWED PLUMES"
"ARE SOON DISCOVERED."





"THE PEACOCK'S COMPLAINT
THE Peacock con-
sidered it wrong
That he had not the nightingale's
song;
So to Juno he went,
She replied, "Be content
With thy having, & hold thy
fool's tongue!"

DO NOT QUARREL WITH NATURE!



: THE TWO CRABS:

“awkward, so shambling
a gait!”
Mrs Crab did her daughter
berate,
Who rejoined, “It is true
I am backward; but you
needed lessons in walking
quite late.”

“LOOK AT HOME”

: THE TWO JARS:

“NEVER fear! said the Brass
to the Clay
Of two jars that the flood
bore away:
“Keep you close to my side!”
But the porcelain replied,
“I’ll be smashed if beside you
I stay.”

“OUR FRIEND OUR ENEMY.”





BROTHER & SISTER

TWIN children: the Girl,
she was plain;
The Brother was handsome &
vain;
"Let him brag of his looks,"
Father said; mind your books!
The best beauty is bred in the brain."

HANDSOME IS AS HANDSOME DOES :





The Dog & the Shadow

IS image the Dog did not
know,
Or his bone's, in the pond's
painted show:
"I' other dog," so he thought,
"Has got more than he ought;
So he snapped, & his dinner
saw go!

'GREED IS SOMETIMES'

CAUGHT BY ITS
OWN BAIT



THE CROW & THE PITCHER

How the cunning old Crow got his drink
When 'twas low in the pitcher, just think!
Don't say that he spilled it!
With pebbles he filled it,
Till the water rose up to the brink.

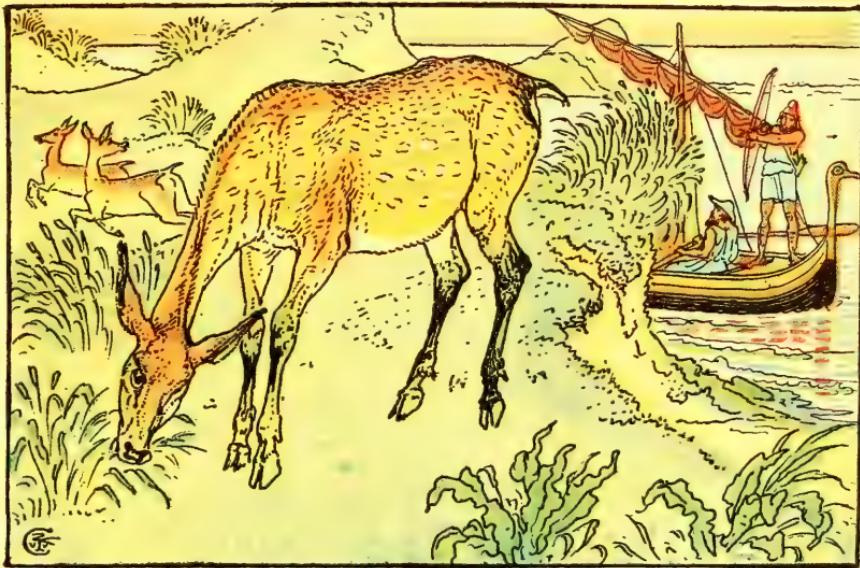
USE YOUR WITS.

THE EAGLE AND THE CROW :

THE Eagle flew off with a lamb;
Then the Crow thought to lift an old ram,
In his eagles conceit,
The wool tangled his feet,
And the shepherd laid hold of the sham.

BEWARE OF OVERRATING YOUR OWN POWERS :





THE BLIND DOE

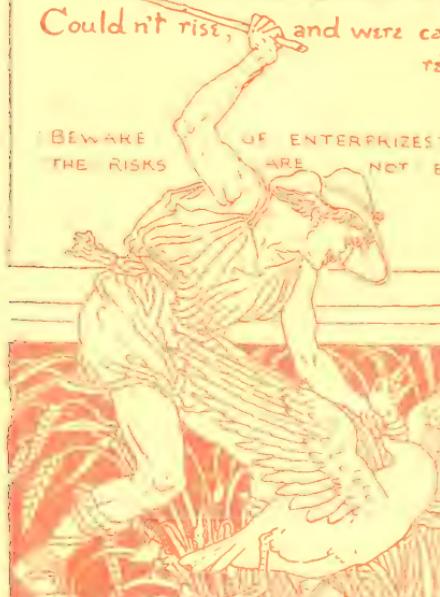
A poor half-blind Doe her one eye
Kept shoreward, all danger to spy,
As she fed by the sea,
Poor innocent! she
Was shot from a boat passing by.

: WATCH ON ALL SIDES :

THE GEESE & THE CRANES.

THE Geese joined the Cranes in some wheat;
All was well, till disturbed at their treat;
Light-winged, the Cranes fled.
But the slow Geese, well fed,
Could n't rise, and were caught in retreat.

BEWARE OF ENTERPRISES WHERE
THE RISKS ARE NOT EQUAL





THE TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER

Trumpeter, prisoner made,
Hoped his life would be spared
He'd no part in the ^{when he said} fight,
But they answered him "Right,
But what of the music you made?"

SONGS MAY SERVE
A CAUSE AS WELL AS SWORDS

: HOT AND COLD:

WHEN to warm his cold fingers
man blew,
And again, but to cool the hot stew;
Simple Satyr, unused
To man's ways, felt confused,
When the same mouth blew hot &
cold too!

ÆSOP AIMED AT DOUBLE DEALING.



:NEITHER BEAST NOR BIRD:

Beast he
would be, or
a bird,

As might suit, thought the Bat:
but he erred.

When the battle was done,
He found that no one
Would take him for friend at
his word.

"BETWEEN TWO STOOLS
YOU MAY COME TO THE GROUND."





THE STAG IN THE OX-STALL ||| THE DEER & THE LION

SAFE enough lay the poor
hunted Deer
In the ox-stall, with nothing
to fear
From the careless-eyed men :
Till the Master came ; then
There was no hiding-place
for the Deer.

AN EYE IS
KEEN IN ITS
OWN
INTEREST

FROM the hounds the swift
Deer sped away,
To his cave, where in past times
Well concealed; unaware
Of a Lion couched there,
For a spring that soon made
him his prey.

FATE
CAN MEET
AS WELL AS
FOLLOW

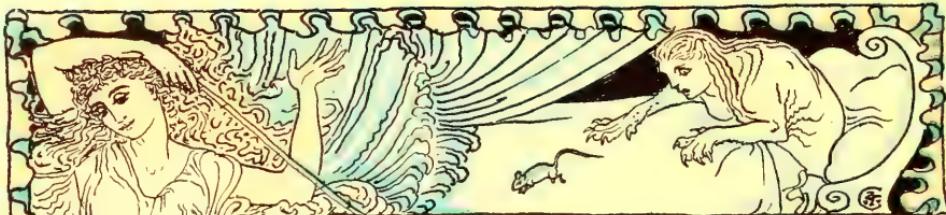


THE LION IN LOVE

THOUGH the Lion in love let
All his Teeth, and pare down every
them draw
claw,
He'd no bride for his pains,
For they beat out his brains
Ere he set on his maiden
a paw.



OUR VERY MEANS MAY
DEFEAT OUR ENDS



THE CAT AND VENUS

"MIGHT his Cat be a woman," he said:
Venus changed her: the couple were wed:
But a mouse in her sight
Metamorphosed her quite,
And, for bride, a cat found he instead.

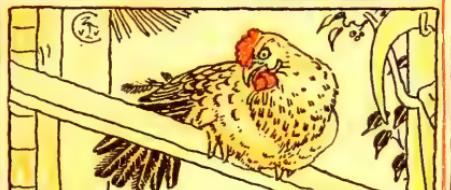
: NATURE WILL OUT:

MICE IN COUNCIL

AGAINST Cat sat
a Council of Mice.
Every Mouse came out
prompt with advice,
And a bell on Cat's throat
Would have met a round vote,
Had the bell-hanger not
been so nice.

: THE BEST POLICY OFTEN
· TURNS ON AN IF :





•THE•HEN•AND•THE•FOX•

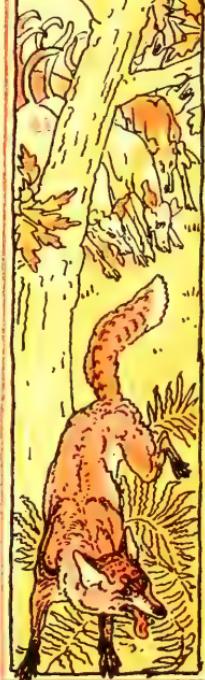
THE Hen roosted high on her perch;
Hungry Fox down below, on the search,
Coaxed her hard to descend
She replied, "Most dear friend!
I feel more secure on my perch."

•BEWARE OF INTERESTED FRIENDSHIPS:

•THE•CAT•AND•THE•FOX•

THE Fox said "I can play,
when it fits,
Many wiles that with man make
me quits"
"But my trick's up a tree!"
Said the Cat, safe to see
Clever Fox hunted out of his wits.

•TRUST TO SKILL RATHER THAN WIT:





: THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE:

T WAS a race between Tortoise and Hare,
Puss was sure she'd so much time to spare,
That she lay down to sleep,
And let old Thick-shell creep
To the winning-post first! You may stare.

PERSISTENCE BEATS IMPULSE!

: THE HARES AND THE FROGS:

T IMID Hares, from the trumpeting wind,
Fled as swift as the fear in their mind;
Till in fright from their fear,
From the green sedges near,
Leaping Frogs left their terror behind.

OUR OWN ARE NOT THE ONLY TROUBLES:





PORCUPINE, SNAKE, & COMPANY.
GOING shares with the Snakes, Porcupine
Said "the best of the bargain is mine;"
Not would he back down,
When the snakes would disown
The agreement his quills made them sign.
— HASTY PARTNERSHIPS MAY BE REPENTED OF.



THE BEAR & THE BEES:
THIER honzy I'll have when I
Who cares for such small things as
Said the Bear; but the stings
Of these very small things
Left him not very much at his ease.

THE WEAKEST UNITED MAY BE STRONG TO AVENGE



:THE·BUNDLE·OF·STICKS:

“**O** his sons, who fell out, father
spake:
This Bundle of Sticks you can’t
break;
Take them singly, with ease,
You may break as you please,
So, dissension your strength will
unmake.”

·STRENGTH·IS·IN·UNITY·

THE FARMER'S TREASURE

DIG deeply, my Sons! through
this field!
There's a TREASURE — he died:
unrevealed
The spot where 'twas laid,
They dug as he bade;
And the TREASURE was found in
the yield.

PRODUCTIVE LABOUR IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF WEALTH



THE COCK THE ASS & THE LION

THE Ass gave a horrible bray,
Cock crowed; Lion scampered away;
Ass judged he was scared
By the bray, and so dared

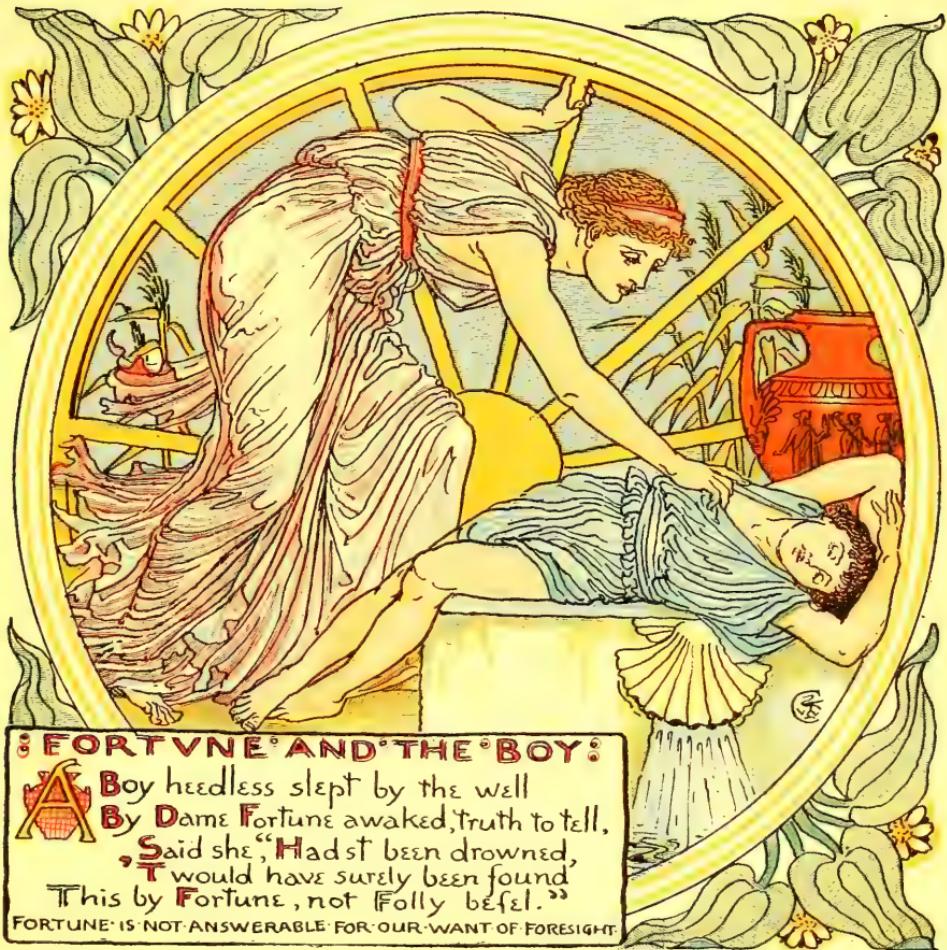
To boast to Lion of his power.

DON'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT TO YOURSELF!

THE ASS AND THE LAP-DOG

Now Master's that the Dog
Thinks the Ass; & with jealousy frets,
So he climbs Master's knees.
Hoping dog-like to please,
And a drubbing is all that he gets.

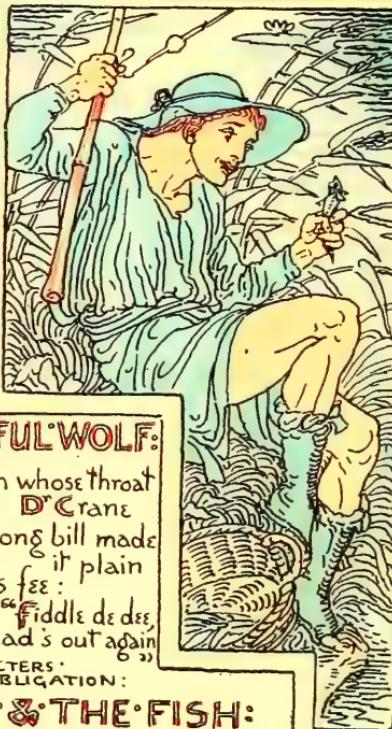
ASSES' MUST NOT EXPECT TO BE FONDLED.



FORTUNE AND THE BOY:

A Boy heedless slept by the well
By Dame Fortune awaked, truth to tell,
Said she, "Hadst been drowned,
Would have surely been found
This by Fortune, not Folly befel."

FORTUNE IS NOT ANSWERABLE FOR OUR WANT OF FORESIGHT.



THE UNGRATEFUL WOLF:

To the Wolf, from whose throat
Drew the bone, his long bill made
it plain
He expected his fee:
Snarled Wolf - "Fiddle de dee,
Be thankful your head's out again

"SOME CHARACTERS
HAVE NO SENSE OF OBLIGATION:

THE FISHERMAN & THE FISH:

Prayed the Fish, as the Fisherman took
Him, a poor little mite, from his hook,
"Let me go! I'm so small."
He replied, "Not at all!
You're the biggest, perhaps in the brook."

A LITTLE CERTAINTY IS BETTER THAN A GREAT CHANCE:



THE HERDSMAN'S VOWS

A KID vowed to love, so might he
Find his herd, & his herd did he see
Soon, of lions the prey:
Then I was - "Get me away,
And a goat of the best take for me.
HOW OFTEN WOULD WE MEND OUR WISHES!"



THE HORSE AND THE ASS:

VERLADEN the Ass was. the Horse
wouldn't help; but had time for the
morse
When the Ass lay dead there;
For he then had to bear
Both the load of the Ass & his corse.
GRUDGE NOT HELP!



THE ASS & THE SICK LION:
CRAFTY Lion, - perhaps with the gout
Kept his cave; where, to solve any doubt,
Many visitors go:
But the Ass, he said "No!
They go in, but I've seen none come out."
REASON FROM RESULTS.

THE END









BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

* WALTER CRANE *

ALSO BY THE
SAME:

"THE ——
BABY'S
OPERA"

—
THE ——
BABY'S
BOUQUET

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